General of the two countries in Bombay and Shanghai, and to resume border trade, for which arrangements are in hand.

The Minister of Commerce visited China in February, 1991 for the second meeting of the Joint Group on Trade, Economic Relations and Science and Technology. During this visit the Annual Trade Protocol for 1991-92 was concluded, and it was decided to intensify and expand cooperation in trade, Joint technology development and joint investment in key areas.

**Rengali irrigation project in Orissa**

381. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the second phase (phase II) of Rengali irrigation project in Orissa is awaiting the approval of the Central Government;

b) if so, by when the project is expected to be sanctioned; and

(c) the total hectares of land that would be brought under irrigation once the project is executed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The second phase of Rengali Irrigation Project has not been received at the Centre.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Visit by Romanian President, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and a Kuwaiti Minister to India**

382. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Romanian President, Shri Ion Illiescu, visited during the month of January, 1991 and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs visited India on the 7th February and 6th February, 1991 respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the Indian leaders whom they met during the visits;

(d) the nature of talks held; and

(e) whether any agreement has since been signed and if so, the details thereof, seperately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ot (d). The requisite information is furnished in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

**Statement**

(i) ROMANIA

The President of Romania, Mr. Ion Iliescu made a brief transit halt in Delhi on 16-1-1991. During this stop-over he had a 45 minutes meeting with our Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, during which they reviewed bilateral relations and discussed international issues of mutual interest. Both leaders agreed that our relations in the economic, scientific, cultural and other fields should be developed to mutual benefit. The Romanian President, Mr.Iliescu, also briefed the Prime Minister on recent developments in Romania and the policies of the Romanian Government.

(ii) AFGHANISTAN

The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Abdul Wakil paid an official visit to India at our invitation from 7 to 9 February, 1991. During this visit he met President, Shri R. Venkataraman, Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Deputy Prime Minister Shri Devi Lal and other prominent leaders of political parties. He held delegation-level talks with the former Minister of External Affairs Shri V. C. Shukla on bilateral regional and international issues of mutul interest with special focus on the Gulf crisis.

(iii) KUWAIT

Mr. Abdul Rehman A. Al Awadhi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of the State of Kuwait visited India, as Special Envoy of the Amir of Kuwait, from 6 to 8 February, 1991. He called on the President Shri R. Venkataraman and the Prime

Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar and delivered a message from His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Salim Al Sabah, Prime Minister and Crown Prince of Kuwait. He also called on the former Minister of External Affairs Shri V. C. Shukla, Deputy Minister of External Affairs Shri Digvijay Singh and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Dr. Najma Heptullah. He discussed the curent Gulf Crisis and the traditional friendly bilateral relations between the two countries.

**Indians returning from Gulf**

383. SHRI PARABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indians returned to India recently due to ongoing Gulf War;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all of them are leaving behind their hearth and home in gulf countries;

(c) if so, the estimated amount of property they are leaving behind;

(d) wether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to compensate the above Indians and if so, the details thereof? and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of them have been forced to leave behind their movable and immovable assests.

(c) In the present conditions, it is not possible to estimate the value of property left behind by returning Indians.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Petition submitted by Fiji Nationals of Indian origin**

384. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that United Nations has sent the petition submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations by the Fiji Nationals of Indian origin, to the Fiji Authorities;

(b) if so, the substance of the petiiton;

(c) whether summary of the petition has been submited to the Human Rights Cimmission and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities also;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) what is the Government of India's role therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The petitioners have charged that the present Government in Fiji has obtained power through an unjustifiable, racially discriminatory, military takeover which was in violation of Fiji's own Constitution and international law. They have requested the U. N. for relief and sought immediate cession of control by Fiji's present Government to a popularly elected, democratically based Government which would represent the interests of all Fijians.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The results of the petition would be known only by July-August 1991, by when the Government of Fiji may sent its reply, if any, to the U. N. Human Rights Commission.

(e) The Government of India is committed to support the democratic aspirations of the people of Fiji.